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sentences. The chapter on the paragraph, though good, might have distinguished different kinds of paragraphs to advantage. In the remaining portion of part I. the discussion of theme writing in several chapters is commendable for its valuable hints.

Part II., besides having examples illustrating the early chapters of the book, consists of plans for essays of various kinds with numerous subjects for similar treatment. One chapter, called studies in literature, is designed to assist students in preparing for the college examinations in English, and will be found particularly helpful in secondary schools.

On the whole, Mead's *Rhetoric* may be commended as eminently practical, and one that will be found useful and instructive wherever used.

Oliver Farrar Emerson

Cornell University

Cicero : By J. L. STRACHAN-DAVIDSON. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Readable trustworthy books about Cicero are not numerous in the English language, and for that reason this book will be eagerly read.

One's attention is first drawn to the large number of excellent illustrations. There are nearly thirty, most of them from Duruy's *History of Rome*, all delightful and all appropriate. The appearance of the book is very pleasing throughout, and is uniform with the rest of the series, *Heroes of the Nations*.

It is not an easy undertaking within the limits of about four hundred and thirty pages to tell the story of Cicero's life, connected as it is with so much that is important and interesting in the history of the great city; there are so many temptations to turn aside in pursuit of alluring themes. But the author has maintained a very steady course and has displayed good judgment in the selection of topics to be emphasized and of those to be more lightly passed over.

A noticeable characteristic of this sketch is the extent to which Cicero is made to tell his own story by selections from his orations and letters, and it must be added that the translations are quite unique in point of vigor and originality. One can not fail to notice the multitude of historical incidents and Roman customs in religion, social life, and politics, which are skilfully woven into the narrative, and are made to have a vital connection with the rest of the book.

The writer has evidently thought out his own opinions, and this it is that gives life to what might so easily be simply a dry collection of facts. The book is everywhere interesting, suggestive, and stimulating.

Not all people will accept all the statements in regard to what Caesar might and might not have accomplished in the way of preserving the republic, yet the discussion is not at all lacking in interest.

The extreme prejudice and partizan bias which disfigure the pages of Middleton, Forsyth, and Trollope, and destroy one's confidence in their critical estimates are in the main lacking here, and for this reason, if for no other, classical teachers will read this biography with pleasure.

As might be expected, the author's natural fondness for his subject occasionally carries him a little too far, as when he undertakes to show that Cicero did not mean what he wrote in his letter to Luceius, in which he asks that historian not to confine himself entirely to bare facts in his treatment of the consulship so dear to Cicero's heart. It is better to stand in silent sorrow before such passages than to endeavor to show that black is a shade of white. Still the writer has done so much better than others in this respect that these excesses ought to be forgiven, if not overlooked.

As a whole the book is a rare treat and in its particular province is not likely soon to be supplanted. Would that all the eminent characters of antiquity had as good biographies. Then indeed we might "keep them before us in the midst of life's duties and mould our thoughts and feelings by reflecting upon the lives of those distinguished men."

Frank A. Gallup

Colgate Academy

First Latin Readings. By ROBERT ARROWSMITH and GEORGE M. WHICHER. New York: American Book Company.

This book is intended for the use of teachers who wish for their students a more varied reading than the usual course provides.

The selections are from Eutropius, Aulus Gellius, Cornelius Nepos, Caesar, Cicero, and Livy.

The authors seem to have drawn too freely from the Gallic War, unless it is assumed that the consecutive reading of Caesar is to be abandoned altogether, a fate not likely soon to overtake the commentaries, because of the firm hold which they